

BROWN TO NAME FARM LABOR UNIT

Panel to Attempt to 'Unclog' Union Election Machinery

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SACRAMENTO, Calif., Oct. 4—Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. says he has decided to appoint a special force of lawyers and investigators in an attempt to "unclog quickly" the machinery of California's new farm labor election law.

Mr. Brown spoke this week in response to intense criticism of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, which is supposed to administer the law. The criticism came from the three major forces in the elections—the United Farm Workers, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and some grower organizations.

Several hundred members of the U.F.W. descended on this city, the state capital, this week urging that Walter Kintz, the board's general counsel, be dismissed. They contend that he has not acted speedily in processing close to 200 unfair labor practice charges the union has filed.

In Fresno, at the board's regional office, 55 members of the teamsters' union staged a sit-in, also asserting that the board was not processing unfair labor practice charges swiftly enough.

And the Council of California Growers, with 16,000 members, charged that the board's decisions thus far have been "often unfair, biased and ill-advised."

U.F.W. Leads 79 to 78

Thus far, 197 elections have been held in a month, almost equal to the 203 elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board in 1936, the first year of its existence.

The U.F.W., led by Cesar Chavez, has won 79 elections, the teamsters have won 78 elections, and the workers voted against having a union at 12 ranches. Twenty-eight elections are as yet unresolved because of challenged votes or lack of a majority.

The U.F.W. has won the right to represent about 10,400 workers and the teamsters' about 9,500.

A hearing on a challenged election at the E. and J. Gallo winery, the nation's largest vintner, will begin Monday. The primary issue is how many of 131 "economic strikers" who cast ballots last month are deemed legally eligible to have their vote counted. The hearing is expected to last four to six weeks.

Another major problem for the agricultural board has been the need to continue litigating suits on the question of union organizers' right to have access to workers for an hour before and after work and an hour at lunchtime to solicit their votes.

Local sheriffs continued to arrest union organizers in the fields, even though both the California Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court have issued stays of lower court decisions that threw out an agricultural board ruling providing for organizer access.

Additionally, it was learned that some growers had dismissed workers at ranches where the farm union won the representation election. The agricultural board has filed unfair labor practice charges... some of these growers and in one of its charges it also asserted that a supervisor at the M. B. Zaninovich Company of Fresno threatened to kill employees who supported the U.F.W.

Moreover, some officials of the agricultural board said this week that the farm union would have won 15 to 20 per cent more votes in the elections but for intimidation of workers by ranch supervisors.

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